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State Dept. review completedDolanc and Miskovic Pick Up Where Tito Stopped

Tito's lieutenants have wasted no time following-up on his get-tough line.

Party executive bureau secretary Stane Dolanc revealed in a 19 September speech that "teams" will be sent out to republic, provincial and army units of the party to ensure that the executive bureau's orders are being carried out. He justified the measure by saying that Yugoslavia's revolution was passing through a "terribly difficult stage," and there was a need to enforce control in the party ranks, to weed-out opportunists, to revamp the cadre and to expel profiteers. Sensitive to recent Western press coverage of Yugoslavia, Dolanc denied Belgrade was shifting its nonaligned, self-managing posture toward the east. He labeled such stories "bourgeois fears" that the success of the Yugoslav system would be dangerous for the West. He also charged unspecified western intelligence organizations of aiding the ustashi emigres and of banking on certain "fascist organizations" inside Yugoslavia.

Tito's special advisor on security matters, Col. General Ivan Miskovic, took Dolanc's last point one step further. In a 23 September address to the Croatian Socialist Alliance, Miskovic claimed that a "special war" is being conducted against Yugoslavia by foreign intelligence organizations and the Croatian emigres who have joined forces. Through a variety of means including subversion, psychological-propaganda and even guerrilla warfare they seek to undermine Yugoslav socialism. Miskovic then went on to describe in detail the security being taken inside the country to prevent further guerrilla attacks such as those that took place last summer in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

On 22 September, the Yugoslav press made its first attempt to balance an anti-West stance in connection with the recent increase in ustashi terrorist activity. The Yugoslav trade union journal Rad was mildly critical of the Soviets for TASS' description of the ustashi as "extremists" and not "terrorists." The West, however, clearly remains the villain since the ustashi operate from bases there and not in the East.

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Gustav Husak in East Germany

First Secretary Gustav Husak and Premier Lubomir Strougal headed a Czechoslovak party-government delegation on a four day visit to East Germany last week designed to emphasize the cohesion of the Soviet bloc as well as improving bilateral relations between Prague and Pankow. Honecker, recalling Prague's hospitality to him when he was in Czechoslovakia last November, pulled out all the stops in giving the Czechoslovaks a warm reception. A whirlwind tour was arranged for the visiting dignitaries in East Berlin, Rostock and Halle. Various speeches of "fraternal solidarity" were given by Honecker, Husak, Strougal and Premier Stoph. Moscow gave its blessing to the affair by having Pravda reiterate the major events during the visit.

In the speeches and the final communique, the leaders harped on the developing political and economic cooperation between their two countries and mutually supported each other's demands in foreign affairs. Thus, Honecker supported Prague's demand that Bonn recognize the 1938 Munich Agreement invalid ab initio, while Husak called for East Germany's admission to the UN and international recognition.

The main theme that emerged from all the verbiage was the alleged solidarity of the Eastern European countries under the leadership of the Soviet Union. The participants cited the eastern treaties with West Germany and the Berlin accords as the beginning of a "new phase" in peaceful coexistence between East and West European states. This developing detente, which would peak at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the speakers alleged, now hinges on West Germany's attitude toward settling its relations with the GDR and Czechoslovakia. Honecker expressed confidence that an FRG-GDR treaty could be completed early if Bonn recognized the reality of East Germany's independence. All in all, the visit appeared as a major effort to present the bloc's united front as it prepares for CSCE

Prague Initiative on Relations with US

Foreign Minister Chrousek will soon present a new proposal to Secretary of State Rogers suggesting ways to improve Czechoslovak-US relations. In June Prime Minister Strougal said the time was ripe to begin talks once again and that it was up to his government to make the first move.

Prague now appears on the threshold of taking that initiative. The Czechoslovak Ambassador in Washington, Spacil, indicated during a call on Assistant Secretary Stoessel on

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21 September that Chnoupek's "far-reaching" proposal to improve relations will cover economic, consular, scientific and technical matters as well as the problem of American-owned property nationalized after the war. The new proposal has the approval of the "highest authorities" and will, according to Spacil, take into consideration past US positions. The ambassador said the main purpose of the initiative was to bring about an overall improvement in relations and not just to receive most favored nation status.

As a sign of Czechoslovak good intentions, Spacil noted that

[redacted] would soon be released. There are other signs of improving relations. A Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce delegation is currently in the United States on a goodwill visit, the first such mission to the US since 1956. The departure of the delegation received prominent coverage from the Czechoslovak media.

Plans for Gierek's Visit to France Being Arranged

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With Polish party chief Gierek's official visit to France only one week off, protocol officials of both countries are busy making final arrangements. Gierek, with a party of twelve, will visit Paris, Versailles and Lyon during his five-day visit. He will not make a nostalgic journey to the northern regions of France where he worked as a miner years ago, although he will visit with some old friends and relatives from that region at the Polish Embassy in Paris. During the visit, Gierek and Pompidou will sign a new declaration of friendship and a ten-year accord in economic and scientific cooperation.

In a press conference last week, Pompidou had nice words for Poland--obviously warming up for Gierek's visit. He noted that France and Poland were traditional friends who had never fought each other--a rare circumstance in Europe. He further referred to Poland as the most densely populated country of Eastern Europe and the most important after the Soviet Union. He concluded that France intends to develop further cooperation with all of Eastern Europe and is particularly pleased to start with Poland.

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